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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 19 August 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to wage its bloody military campaign against the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The occupying forces continue to use excessive, indiscriminate and lethal force, killing and injuring scores of innocent Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and causing more damage and destruction.

Yesterday, Wednesday, 18 August 2004, Israel, the occupying Power, attempted to commit yet another extrajudicial execution in grave breach of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. Helicopter gunships fired missiles at the residence of Ahmed Al-Jabari in the densely populated Shejiyia neighbourhood in Gaza city. While Mr. Al-Jabari survived the attempted extrajudicial execution, five other Palestinian civilians were killed instantly, including Mr. Al-Jabari's 14-year-old son, brother, nephew and son-in-law. In addition, at least a dozen other Palestinian civilians were wounded, some critically.

Furthermore, since Sunday, 15 August 2004, more than 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees being held in Israeli jails have taken part in a massive series of hunger strikes to protest the gross and systematic violations of their rights and the deplorable living conditions under which they are being detained. Palestinian prisoners and detainees suffer from inhuman humanitarian conditions, including arbitrary and indiscriminate beatings, humiliating strip searches, solitary confinement for excessive periods of time, medical negligence and restrictions placed on visitation rights for family members. The above-mentioned treatment and conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees are in clear violation of international law, international humanitarian law as well as human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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Such ongoing Israeli policies and practices, including the perpetuation of extrajudicial executions and the continued human rights violations against the Palestinian people, including those Palestinians being held in Israeli jails, constitute serious violations and grave breaches of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. Moreover, the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements and the continuation of the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continue to exacerbate the dire situation on the ground and compound the suffering of the Palestinian civilian population. The international community must continue to act to bring an end to all Israeli actions against the Palestinian people and ensure Israel's compliance with international law and with its obligations as an occupying Power.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 196 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. The letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 6 August 2004 (A/ES-10/276-S/2004/630), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of those war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my deepest regret to inform you that, since my letter to you on 6 August 2004, at least 17 more Palestinians, including seven children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 3,179 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Somaia **Barghouti**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 August 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israel occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

(Friday, 6 August 2004 to Thursday, 19 August 2004)

Friday, 6 August 2004 (in addition to the martyrs in the letter of 6 August 2004)

1. Mohammed Othman Balsneh
2. Ahmed Saleh Al-Qeiq (16 years old)

Tuesday, 10 August 2004

1. Salim Omar Al-Koseh (16 years old)

Wednesday, 11 August 2004

1. Saleh Radi Horani (17 years old)

Sunday, 15 August 2004

1. Saef Al-Din Suliman barhoom (14 years old)
2. Jamal Malik Al-Nabulsi

Monday, 16 August 2004

1. Moussa Mansour Abu Hashash
2. Mohammed Suliman Abu Hashash
3. Zaher Ameer Al-Adham
4. Fadi Khalid Dohan
5. Khalid Jamal Al-Astah (10 years old)
6. Majdi Youseef Al-Refai

Wednesday, 18 August 2004

1. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Jabari
2. Burhan Ahmed Al-Jabari (14 years old)
3. Fathi Saed Al-Jabari
4. Saleh Abdel Karim Al-Hayeh
5. Alaa Al-Din Ali Al-Sharif

Thursday, 19 August 2004

1. Ahmed Abdel Fatah Al-Hus (16 years old)

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,179.